TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TRIVANDRUM

PROCEEDINGS
of the
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

FIRST ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION.

Tuesday, the 12th November 1935/26th Thulam 1111.

The Assembly met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven of the Clock, with Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammed Habibullah Sahib Bahadur, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., Kt. L. L. D., the Dewan-President in the chair.

NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls :—

1. Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan
2. Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai
3. Mr. M. Govinda Pillai
4. Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai
5. Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
6. Mr. P. C. Kurien
7. Mr. C. O. Madhavan
8. Mr. P. S. Mahomed
9. Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai
10. Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
11. Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
12. Mr. R. Pitchu Aiyangar.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Elevation of depressed classes.

1 *MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : With reference to the following paragraph in the Annual Report of the work of the Protector of Depressed Classes for 1109 M. E:—

> "I had also to devote some attention to save the poor people from the merciless oppression and tyranny of their so-called leaders. This has to some extent created discontent among many of them and some of them offered open opp si-tion towards the efforts of Government in their work of ameliorating the condition of depressed classes. The services of the prominent men among depressed classes, instead of being helpful, have, for the most part, been a positive hindrance to the elevation of the people of their own community.",

will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of the so-called leaders from whose merciless oppression and tyranny the Protector had to devote some attention to save the poor people ;

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[Mr. R. Sivaraman Nair.]

(*b*) the nature of that oppression and tyranny;

(*c*) what the Protector of the Depressed Classes has done to save the poor people from such oppression and tyranny;

(*d*) the names of the prominent men among the depressed classes whose services have for the most part been a positive hindrance to the elevation of the people of their own community; and

(*e*) in what efforts of the Government, in their work of ameliorating the condition of depressed classes, they offered open opposition.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): (*a*) to (*e*) Government consider that it will be against public interests to disclose names.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Do not the Government consider that it will be against public interests to make such statements as the one that has been quoted in the question, in their report?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): The member seeks the opinion of Government. Am I to answer that supplementary question, Sir?

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Is it not against the interests of the depressed classes to ban their leaders as 'tyrannous'?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): The real leaders of the depressed classes have not been condemned at all. It is only such men as have been actually found to be working subversive of the interests of the depressed classes who have been referred to in the report of the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I ask why parts (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) have not been answered?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): Government consider that it will be against public interests to give the information asked for.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): All that the answer says is that it would be against public interests to disclose *names*. Parts (*b*), (*c*) and (*e*) do not ask for any names. It cannot be against public interests to let us know what the Protector of Depressed Classes has done to save these poor people from the oppression and tyranny referred to.

PRESIDENT: The whole question relates to the names of certain people who were doing things against the interests of the depressed classes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): It is only some parts of the question that ask for *names*. There are some other parts which relate to the steps taken by the Protector. The answer given is therefore incomplete and misleading.

PRESIDENT: Yes; part (*c*), for instance, has not been properly answered.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): The Protector has, by a series of public lectures and personal talks with the

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important men in the community, instructed the people as to how to escape from the traps set for them by their so-called leaders.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): What is the means by which the Government distinguish the so-called leaders from the real leaders?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): The Protector knows who are the real leaders.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Have the Government recognised a certain set of people as the leaders of the depressed classes?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): There are certain accredited leaders who have been recognised as such by the Government.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What was the open opposition offered by the so-called leaders?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): If the Honourable Member would peruse the entire paragraph of which the extract in question forms a part, he would find that the Protector has explained how these so-called leaders have been manoeuring certain things for their own ends and how they have been exploiting, with selfish motives, the depressed classes for their own selfish purposes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): The member has not answered my question. What was the kind of opposition that was given by these so-called leaders? Did they parade themselves before the officers? Did they offer any physical resistance? Opposition may be of different kinds. It is certainly in the interests of the public to let us know whether anybody in this country has offered open opposition to officers engaged in Government work. So, I want to know what is the sort of opposition that these so-called leaders have been giving. The Co-operative Registrar, instead of answering that question, simply refers me to a passage which he himself does not seem to have understood.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): There has been no physicial opposition. They were doing things calculated to defeat the ameliorative measures the Government had in view, measures which the Protector was contemplating to give effect to.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What are those things which were calculated to defeat the purpose of Government?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): I shall quote one concrete instance. When a well had to be dug in a *cheri*, a depressed class village, merely because the contract for the work had not been given to one of these so-called leaders, he put all sorts of obstacles against the contractor and prevented him from completing the work in time.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Was there any representation to that effect from the contractor?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): It must be because of a representation from the contractor that the Protector has made this assertion in his report.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What was the action taken on such representation?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operatives Societies*): The Protector cannot proceed against these mischievous so-called leaders. There is no law under which he can do it.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Am I to understand that the Protector is absolutely helpless in the matter?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): He is practically helpless.

Grants to private schools.

2. *MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): (*a*) With reference to statement in para 2 (197) on page 91 of the Administration Report of the Education Department for 1109, will the Government be pleased to state how and by whom Rs. 37,060, out of Rs. 9,84,464, the maintenance grants to private schools, was spent?

(*b*) With reference to the para referred to in part (*a*) of the question, has an enquiry been conducted into the cause of such discrepancy and, if so, the result of the same?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) The difference was due to wrong classification.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): With reference to part (*a*), may I know under what head the sum of Rs. 37,060 was classified in the wrong classification?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The departmental figures and the Account Office figures differed under various heads.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the sum of Rs. 9,84,464 was spent for maintenance grants to private schools in 1109?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give a definite answer to the question since the figures of the Department and the figures of the Account Office were not finally reconciled.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member in a position to assure the House that this sum of Rs. 9,84,464 was not spent for the purpose?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No: because, that depends on whether the Departmental figures are correct, or the Account Office figures.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It is stated at page 91 of the Administration Report of the Education Department.—

> "Maintenance grants to private schools amounted to Rs. 9,84,464 against Rs. 9,25,021 in 1108. The figures for the total maintenance grants could not be reconciled with the Departmental accounts; according to the Departmental figures, the amount of maintenance grants was only Rs. 9,47,404 in 1109."

It appears that there has been a leakage of Rs. 37,000 odd.

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